

SMALL THINGS.

A nameless man and a crowd
That thronged the daily mart,
Let fall a word of hope and love,
Unmelted from the heart;
A whisper on the tumult thence—
A tremor of breath—
It raised a hoarser from the dust,
It saved a soul from death.
O man! O bond of love!
O thought at random cast!
Ye were but little of the dust—
But mighty at the last!

STERILITY AND DEPLETION.

Regarding this subject Mr. Howorth remarks: "The gardener who desires his plants to blossom and bear fruit takes care that they shall avoid a vigorous growth. He knows that this will inevitably make them steriler than other trees will, to produce seed, or that they will bear no blossoms at all. In order to procure flowers and fruit he checks the growth and vigor of the plant by pruning its roots or branches, depriving it of food, and, if he has a stubborn pear or peach tree which has long refused to bear fruit, he adopts the hazardous but often most successful plan of ringing its bark."

Turning to the animal kingdom, the rule is no less true. "Fat hens won't lay" is an old fragment of philosophy. The breeder of sheep, pigs and cattle knows very well that if his ewes, sows and cows are not kept lean they will not breed; and a startling example is stated that to induce Alpine cows, which are bad breeders, to be fertile, they are actually bled, and so sufficiently reduced in condition.

In like manner generous diet and good living produce their effect on human beings. In countries where flesh and strong food is the ordinary diet, the population is thin and the increase small; while where fish, vegetables, and weak food are used, the population is large, and the increase rapid. Everywhere rich, luxurious, well-fed classes are diminishing in numbers or are stationary; while the poor, bodily, hard worked are very prolific. As with the plant, the animal and the man, so it is with the nation. It was luxury and not the barbarians that snuffed the power and wrought the destruction of the Roman Empire; and as plants, and even human beings are diminished by a course of depletion to reinvigorated fertility, so, according to some authorities, great wars have a similar effect on nations, and by a course of depleting action stimulate them to increased activity and renewed vigor.

REASURED.

A dinner-party was in progress during the brilliant display of northern lights, and a gentleman, stepping out to cool his burning brow, was startled by the display above the frosty pole. He stood perfectly amazed, then turning to the window, he saw within the wife of his bosom sitting with the ladies waiting for their liege lords to end their champagne and cigars. Pushing aside the curtain, he beckoned to Mrs. Agnes to come out. She complied, when he said to her solemnly: "Wagnes, I've seen anything extraneous now?" "Yes, Dolly, I see that you have been drinking too much wine." "No, not that, Wagnes; I mean extraneous phemonomina in atmosphere." "Why—where, Dolly?" "Upper yonder, Wagnes?" "Why dear me, yes; I do indeed—the most brilliant aurora I ever saw?" "Wagnes, are things a shinin'?" "Yes, dear." "And aflashin'?" "Wagnes?" "Yes, Dolly?" "An' a sorter spreadin' and dancin'—oh, Wagnes?" "All that my dear?" "Ho! ho!" laughed the husband, much relieved. "Do you know, Wagnes—I mean Agnes—when I come out an' saw the celestial phemonomina a glowin' upper yonder, damn me if I didn't think I was drunk."

LIMITATION OF LIFE.

Some very curious discoveries have been made by medical gentlemen in the service of life insurance companies, not generally apprehended by well informed physiological savants. It is this, viz.: the children of long lived parents. If only one is long lived and the other is from a stock with less vital force, then the children have a sort of division of vitality among them. One will live to be very aged, while another falls considerably short of the life period of the shortest-lived parent.

But there is another fact still more surprising, pretty nearly as well established. When a child arrives at the age at which either parent died, aside from accidental cause, it will become indisposed, gradually sicken and may die. If it survives at that time, it may pass through a similar state of vital disturbance as on or about the anniversary of the other parent's death; but if that is passed, some years more may be safely predicted as a life long lease for the individual. Laws of limitation are not exclusively legislative acts. Nature established them before parliaments and congresses were organized.

ALWAYS think a plenty, and go slow over rough places.

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